

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, August 15, 2014
Sullivan Conference Room, Parker Agricultural Coliseum



Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Dianne Sasser in place of Chairman Ken McMillin.

Members present: Mandy Armentor, Mariah Bock, Esther Coco Boe, Edward Bush, Cynthia Clifton, David Picha, Adriana Drusini (Kori Myers proxy), Jennifer Duhon, Tina Goebel (Esther Boe, proxy), Kenneth Guidry, Layne Langley, Ken McMillin (Diane Sasser, proxy), Joan King, Kurt Guidry, Layne Langley, Deborah Melvin (Mandy Armentor, proxy), Kori Myers, Ioan Negulescu (Joan King, proxy), Charles Overstreet, Diane Sasser, Neely Walker

Members absent: Jeffrey Beasley, Thomas Dean, Luis Escobar, Michael Stout

Introductions were made by faculty council members to welcome a new member (Karl Harborth) and to introduce themselves to Dr. Eubanks.

Guests

Dr. Gina Eubanks, Associate Vice Chancellor and Program Leader, Nutrition, Food, Biological Engineering.

Comments by Dr. Eubanks----

- Shared her past work history with the Southern University AgCenter and the relationship with parishes.
- Her background is clothing and textiles and is a general home economist. She went on to Oklahoma State University to attain her further education. From East Feliciana parish and a native of Louisiana.
- She has been called to the LSU AgCenter to provide leadership in nutrition, food, and home economics (LaHouse) and that lends strength to Biological Engineering.
- She likes the concept of the 4 Associate Vice Chancellors because the decision making process proves to be more thorough.

- Nutrition and Food Science is still searching for a department head. A round of interviews was held and a viable candidate was not found. The university is reopening the position.
- Dr. Eubanks understands the mission of Extension with research, teaching, and extension working together to better communities. She likes the national model and says that it took a visionary leader to put this model in place at a campus the size of LSU.
- Eubanks applauds the decision to push the management down to the lowest possible level. She does not think that administration who are not working on a parish level understand the layers and cannot make decisions with very good clarity.
- May 1, 2013 is when Eubanks started the position. Collaborate, cooperate, communicate, and commit to the new position with both LSU and Southern.

Questions from Council:

- What do you see as the future for the nutrition field agents? Anything exciting or changing? The AgCenter has 5 areas----healthy beginnings, EFNEP, SNAP-ED, smart portions, smart bodies, community nutrition program. Dr. Eubanks believes that general healthy nutrition education for the community is important. Many of the areas have been funded by grant programs that are a limited audience of underserved or poorer clients. General audiences need nutrition education too. Hypertension and diabetes is a general concern for a general audience. Pennington's research has shown that the general population of the parish has these two health issues and they are not underserved, poor, or African American; they represent the community at large.
- Where are we with the Master Nutrition Program? The program is in an exploration stage right now. The Master Volunteer and Master Nutrition Program need to work together to better clarify how the nutrition program will benefit people in the best way. It should be allowed in all parishes not just in particular parishes. We need volunteers in nutrition because we have lost a significant number of faculty members. Volunteers need an outlet to share and teach the Master Nutrition information.
- Billboards around the state-SNAP-Ed? Is there a way to capitalize this across the state and the LSU AgCenter? Promoting commodities, eating healthier, growing vegetables....using this advertising campaign to promote the work of the LSU AgCenter? Eubanks says that all 4 of the AVC's are talking about the connection between healthy living, food systems, crops, and food for the table. These concepts are all tied together to provide a healthy family life.
- Ornamentals and Turf Grass project many years ago connected with Textiles....Suggestion made to see more collaboration between the two universities. Could there be more? There is a lot of potential to combine and connect with the researchers and extension staff between the two universities. Slow Foods and community gardens have been in place for years.

- Are there opportunities for researchers to learn how to write large grants? There was a push for this need a few years ago. Where is that now? There is not a solo person or solo institution who writes grants. Anyone who wants to tackle a grant who works for the AgCenter can write grants. Grants should be evidence and research based.
- Where is the ULM grant training connected to the Pharmacy program? Dr. Elzer was noted as being involved in that.
- Is there a way to have a directory with new listings of all the changes of responsibilities within the AgCenter? The Employee Directory might need to be updated to include Specialists as in the past. Within Departments.....who can answer which questions? The council is requesting the need for an AgCenter directory.
- Service Unit Advisory Committee----we used to have these committees, why do we not have them anymore? How can we re-implement them?
- President and Chancellor King Alexander wants to use the Extension Offices to recruit more students to LSU. He has said that he wants to use field agents in the field to undertake this task. There is concern that field agents work load is at a maximum and adding new tasks to their work load is not being considered. This is a problem and a growing problem. Are we making everyone aware of what job responsibilities exist for each individual person? How can this problem be addressed and what can be done? The demands placed on field agents are causing concern. Dr. Eubanks encouraged agents to start with their regional director or department head to share these concerns.
- Can more support be given to staff who are being pulled in many directions? Even if they are 100% research or 100% extension there is a lot of lap over the two. Research faculty who have to produce research but they also do quite a bit of extension outreach work are always very concerned about getting their priority, research, completed but also reaching out to the community. If we are merged and the walls are broken down between research and extension then we would like to have support from the administration with consideration about all of the roles that we have.
- Will other restructuring happen within the AgCenter? Dr. Eubanks said that she is not aware of any restructuring happening.
- How are the AgCenter staff and BAE working together and collaborating together? The drones, obesity issues, playground equipment, issues within individual municipalities are all examples of collaborations between the AgCenter staff and BAE.
- How has the effort of splitting your time between LSU and Southern University been going? Some days are better than others. Dr. Eubanks said that she is a workaholic! She tries to support and bring her attention to both universities. She communicates well with both universities to let them know where she is and what her schedule is every day or even over a period of a week.

- In the future will there be more funding for more field agents to prevent split appointments? This would reduce stress and help with agent's work loads.

Business

July 18, 2014 meeting minutes approval. A motion was made by Lane Langley to suspend the reading of the minutes due to the fact that minutes were sent out via email by Ken. The motion was seconded by Charles Overstreet. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of the council.

Reports

No Board of Supervisors or Council of Faculty Advisors meeting until September 12
Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates and Louisiana Statewide Colleagues
Collaborative Summit Meeting (Alexandria) Sept. 27, 2014.

Report by Neely Walker, IT Advisory Report—Neely Walker

There is a prototype available and being used to replace the current CMS site. The system will transfer over into the new system. The new system is more user friendly and has access to a footer that a person can toggle between departments and other agcenter sites. The new site will support blogs, videos, YouTube, Facebook, and other social media sites. The new system is more inviting and nicer looking. It seems to be a place that a person would want to visit and use. Can be used on phone, ipad, etc...and adjusts from phone view, tablet, computer. Can be used on any device that is easy to use, however, there will be need for training. Changeover is slated for in early fall. Early January the program will most likely be available for parish use.

Announcements

Karl Harborth- Agriculture Faculty Council replacement for Josh Detre as Assistant
On-campus representative

Discussion Items

Faculty Senate election of 2 members for Fall, 2014

Adjourn

Charles Overstreet made motion to adjourn meeting, second by Cynthia Clifton, motion carried.